



*News Release from Congressman*

# ROB SIMMONS

SECOND DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT

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## **SIMMONS URGES BIG THREE CREDIT AGENCIES TO LEND A HAND TO VETERANS ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY VA DATA THEFT**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - In response to Monday's announcement that thieves had obtained the personal information of 26.5 million veterans, Congressman Rob Simmons, R-2<sup>nd</sup> District, today sent a letter to three of the nation's major credit reporting agencies asking for assistance.

In a letter to the "Big Three" credit agencies - Equifax, Experian and TransUnion, Simmons asked that the companies provide a free credit report to each of the 26.5 million veterans affected by Monday's announcement. Simmons also asked the three credit giants to offer fraud alert and credit monitoring services to those veterans who request it.

A Vietnam Veteran himself and past chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Health Subcommittee, Simmons was outraged by the news.

"Just shocking," Simmons said. "It's incomprehensible how this could happen, and I hope we have a congressional investigation to get to the bottom of this. In the meantime, it's important that the public and private sectors work together on behalf of our Vets to ensure the best possible protection against identity theft and fraud."

### TEXT OF SIMMONS LETTER:

*I am writing as a both a member of Congress and a Vietnam Veteran to ask for your assistance.*

*As I'm a sure you are aware, the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) announced Monday thieves obtained the sensitive personal information on 26.5 million U.S. veterans after a government employee improperly brought the material home. The computer records included names, Social Security numbers and dates of birth -- the mother's milk for electronic identity thieves and credit bandits.*

*While it's imperative that all veterans be vigilant in monitoring their own financial information for suspicious activity, I believe the private sector can help too. To this end, I ask that you provide one free credit report to any affected individual who seeks to review their credit reports in the aftermath of this theft. I also ask that you offer fraud alert and credit monitoring services to those who request them.*

*Our nation's veterans understand the meaning of "public service." By providing free credit reports, you can provide a welcome "thank you" to those who have served our country and have been innocently affected by this theft. Please let me know if I can be of any assistance to you.*

*All the best,  
Rob Simmons  
Member of Congress  
Second District, Connecticut*

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